



# **WESTIR LTD**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

**WESTIR LTD**

ABN: 65 003 487 965

ACN: 003 487 965

WESTIR Limited is a not for profit community organisation, partly funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. Established in 1981 (and becoming a company limited by guarantee in 1989), WESTIR Limited provides enhanced and equitable access to social research and data for people and organisations in Greater Western Sydney.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson:	Ron Alder
Deputy Chairperson:	Erich Weller
Treasurer:	Margaret Tipper
Company Secretary:	Peter Rogers (to September 2018)
Ordinary Members:	Michael Darcy Charles Casuscelli (representing WSROC) Shaun Beckley (representing WSROC) Paul Falzon (from April 2018)

## WESTIR STAFF

Peter Rogers, Executive Officer

Barbara Beard, Senior Social Research & Information Officer

Amy Lawton, Social Research & Information Officer

Olivia Hamilton, Social Research & Information Officer

Jawed Gebrael, Social Research & Information Officer (from April 2018)

Vince Suarez, Administration Officer

### Contact details:



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2017-18 Annual Report

Page 2

## WESTIR ACTIVITIES FOR 2017-2018 (Summary)

9

Occasional Papers prepared and published based around the 2016 Census and other community issues

2

Family & Community Services - Western Sydney and South Western Sydney Districts Targeted Early Intervention Demographic Data Profiles

12

Commissioned Papers and Reports

2

Training Sessions Run by WESTIR

WESTIR publishes on its website at [www.westir.org.au](http://www.westir.org.au) the following documents:

- Occasional Papers
- Commissioned papers, where permission has been granted by the client
- Write ups of Conferences, Forums, Webinars, Training, etc.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

This year has seen some major changes begin at WESTIR with the illness of our Executive Officer, and employee of 28.5 years, Peter Rogers. Ultimately, Peter resigned and retired from work in September 2018. Unfortunately, he had to undertake medical treatment, which required long absences from work. During this time, we cannot thank enough the employees of WESTIR - Barbara Beard, Amy Lawton, Vince Suarez, Olivia Hamilton and our newest employee (from April) Jawed Gebrael.

On Peter's retirement the Board presented him with the inaugural Life Membership Award to WESTIR.

Apart from this, in November 2017, WESTIR relocated offices to just down the road from its old site. Once again, the staff need to be thanked for undertaking this disruption to their workplace and relocation and have set up a new "home", with a meeting room, and the library of historical data and publications about the community and the sector, mostly from across Greater Western Sydney.

The staff team has continued to produce Census papers and updates, particularly with the release of the 2016 Census data. The staff are a small and cohesive team, and this certainly has shown throughout all that they have had to go through during the 2017-2018 year.

A number of contracted engagements also took place, which boosted the income of the organisation and this subsidised a small deficit to our FACS funding under the Community Builders Program. Where permission is granted, these projects are also published on the WESTIR website.

WESTIR's current contract with FACS concludes in 2020 and the state government's funding reform has stalled with the Minister not signing off on District plans. We now wait to see where this will head and, while there is some concern, as to WESTIR's government funding future, it is not impeding our continuing work and service to the organisations and communities of Greater Western Sydney. WESTIR has supplied demographic data to local FACS Districts to assist them in their ongoing planning processes and has worked on governance groups throughout the year.

Financially, the organisation is solvent and is a going concern.

WESTIR is continuing its collaboration with communities and will continue to do so, as part of its core work.

Finally, I would like to thank our funder, Family & Community Services, the services that contract us but most importantly to the WESTIR staff, including Peter Rogers; and, my Board colleagues – Erich Weller, Margaret Tipper, Michael Darcy, Charles Casuscelli, Shaun Beckley and Paul Falzon.

***Ron Alder, Chairperson***

## **(ACTING) EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

I am presenting this report with some regret as I do the 2017-2018 report on behalf of the former Executive Officer, Peter Rogers.

Peter left WESTIR in early September 2018, and while it falls outside the term of this reporting period, it would not be right if it is not mentioned now. He was an employee at WESTIR for 28.5 years in varying capacities. He started as an intern for six months and was then offered a permanent role. Ultimately, he achieved the senior management role and led WESTIR through many iterations of funding from the state government and established WESTIR as the “go to” organisation for community based data. His byline for WESTIR is “let the data run free” and is a strong advocate for data (and information) being made available to the community. Many of you may not be aware that when the project name for WESTIR's state government funding was needed, Peter submitted the ‘Data Liberation Front’. It was accepted eventually, but hesitantly!

Peter developed health issues requiring major surgery late in 2017 and after extensive treatment, his cancer returned in 2018. He made the very tough decision to resign and retire at the end of the financial year.

At Peter's send off he was presented with Life Membership to WESTIR. He is the initial recipient of this honour.

I commenced the position of Acting Executive Officer, firstly for a month in August, and with Peter's resignation and as a short term measure, I was offered the Acting role up until January 2019 while a recruitment process could take place. As a company limited by guarantee, this is permitted but I withdrew any voting rights as a Board Member. Also, the Executive Officer performs the role of Company Secretary.

Through all this turbulence, the staff team at WESTIR has not only borne the emotional impact of Peter's illness but has also carried on in a professional manner, producing papers and completing projects; and taking on the everyday duties at WESTIR.

The Board, and I, cannot thank all the employees enough through this unsettled year—Barbara Beard, Amy Lawton, Olivia Hamilton, Vince Suarez and our newest employee, Jawed Gebrael. Special thanks go to Barbara, Vince, Amy and Olivia for the seamless relocation of the WESTIR Office to our new site, just a few doors away from our old location.

Throughout the year, the community sector was still waiting for the outcomes of whether the funding reform, Targeted Earlier Intervention Program (TEIP), would be signed off by the relevant Minister. This would consolidate a number of programs and move WESTIR's funding stream, Community Builders, into TEIP. Funded services were notified early into the 2018-2019 year that the Minister was not going to sign off on the proposed District Plans.

As to where the funding stream heads, it is not known, we await the next proposal. So, it is “business as usual”. Peter, and now me, have been participating in District planning process as WESTIR covers two FACS Districts – Western Sydney and South Western Sydney over the last few years. WESTIR will continue to participate while these groups are running. As the current contracts move towards conclusion in 2020, we keep a watching and participatory brief. It is great to see while all this bureaucratic change is in the background, the sector continues to provide the community in a seamless way.

WESTIR staff are continuing to update profiles and papers from the 2016 Census. This is always an exciting time for WESTIR and is part of our core role for the community. We have also received income from project work done for organisations. Where possible, and with the permission of our clients, these are published on WESTIR’s website – just go to [www.westir.org.au](http://www.westir.org.au) and look under ‘Publications’. Census updates are under the ‘Census’ tag and WESTIR staff, when attending conferences or relevant events write up these under the tag ‘Conferences’.

A number of projects were completed, or are just about to be, and we thank those organisations who have engaged us during 2017-18 and look forward to ongoing engagements.

Unfortunately, due to some of the disruption of this year a full data report of WESTIR’s work is not available at this time and strategies have been put in place so that this will not occur in the future.

While having these additional projects is important, it is the core work of providing data to organisations and the community, that is part of our funded commitment. It is not unusual for WESTIR to receive calls requesting information and where possible, we supply this.

As well as supplying data, WESTIR has an important role in enabling people to understand data. Two sessions were run by WESTIR throughout the year, being “How to Make a Good Survey”, looking at survey methodology and “Qualitative Research Methods”, with a focus on collecting, analysing and presenting interview data.

WESTIR looks forward to continuing its work throughout 2018-19 and, once again, thank you to the WESTIR employees and the Board.

***Margaret Tipper, Acting Executive Officer  
from August 2018.***

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The 2017-2018 Audit of WESTIR's accounts was undertaken in August 2018 by William Tomiczek & Associates and are presented following.

The Auditor has congratulated the Board, Management and Staff as the Company made a profit of \$29,272.86 in the financial year compared to \$9,677.77 in the 2016-17 year. It should be noted though while a profit was made for the year net cash at the bank reduced from \$173,527.02 to \$172,064.19 due to outstanding debtors. This will be followed up on.

There was an issue in relation to an overpayment to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) of \$4,506.00 and the Auditor is pursuing this with a recommendation of a journal entry be done to the accounts in relation to the ATO entry.

The Auditor has also recommended that an updated inventory of all company assets be undertaken throughout the year.

It should be noted that the FACS Community Builders grant was fully utilised and had a slight deficit which was covered by other income of the Company.

The Auditor also expressed sincere thanks to Peter Rogers for his help over many years and that he is a great and generous man.

Overall, the Company is solvent and a going concern and holds all staff and other provisions in the balance sheet.

A copy of the full financial audit for 2017-2018 is attached to this Annual Report.

***Margaret Tipper, Treasurer***

## OUR PURPOSE

WESTIR Limited stands for Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service. The purpose of WESTIR Limited is to respond to current and potential issues affecting the people of Greater Western Sydney by gathering, analysing and interpreting information and ensuring that such information is easily accessible to the community.

## OUR HISTORY

WESTIR Limited is a not for profit community organisation, partly funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. Established in 1981 (and becoming a company limited by guarantee in 1989), WESTIR Limited provides enhanced and equitable access to social research and data for people and organisations in Greater Western Sydney.

## WHERE IS GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY?

Greater Western Sydney consists of thirteen Local Government Areas (LGAs): Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith, The Hills Shire and Wollondilly. In addition to Greater Western Sydney, WESTIR Limited is increasingly exploring Lithgow and Wingecarribee LGAs as these areas fall within the NSW Government service boundaries for the region.

Please note that while WESTIR Limited's focus is Greater Western Sydney, we are also willing to undertake social research and data projects for people and organisations outside this region.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

- Enhanced and more equitable access to statistical and other information for people and organisations, especially those in Western Sydney.
- The potential for constructive and well-resourced planning to improve the quality of life in Western Sydney.
- Provision of high quality and timely service to our clients.
- We believe in collaboration and not competition, with like-minded organisations and individuals, especially in planning for and activities in the Western Sydney region.
- Improved and more equitable access to human services and physical infrastructure for the Western Sydney community.
- Ethical and non-exploitative research practices.
- Socially inclusive practices, including affirmative action and equal employment opportunity.
- Opposition to negative discrimination and prejudice based on race, colour, creed, gender, age, sexuality, disability/ability, marital status, income, social and political associations, geographic location and position in society (both actual and perceived).

## OUR SERVICES

- Research projects
- Demographic and statistical data analysis
- Service and program evaluation
- Client surveys and sampling frameworks
- Data and research training
- Information advice and referral
- A research and information library

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